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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-15 ADS-00 CIAE-00 OODE-00  
PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15  
NSCE-00 SSG-00 INRM-00 SMS-01 ACDA-12 EB-08 OMB-01  
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 AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
 AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
 AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
 AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
 USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
 AMEMBASSY MOGADISHU

UNCLAS CALRO 00263

E.O. 12065: NA  
TAGS: PEPR AF UR EG  
SUBJECT: SOD TO CHAIR NDP MEETING ON AFGHANISTAN

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SUMMARY. JAN 6 CAIRO PRESS HEADLINES MEETING OF NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) POLITICAL BUREAU TODAY, CHAIRED BY SADAT, TO DECIDE ON STEPS EGYPT WILL TAKE TO CONFRONT SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN. PAPERS HIGHLIGHT U.S. ANNOUNCEMENT OF BANS ON SALE OF WHEAT AND HIGH TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT TO USSR. PROMINENCE GIVEN ALSO TO UNSC SPEECH BY EGYPTIAN PERMREP ABDEL MEGUID, WHO DENOUNCED SOVIET ACTION IN AFGHANISTAN AS FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. EDITORIALS UNDERSCORE NEED FOR ACTION, NOT

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JUST GESTURES, AGAINST SOVIETS. EDITORIALISTS URGE UNITED ISLAMIC STAND IN SUPPORT OF AFGHAN PEOPLE. END SUMMARY.

1. EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN CONTINUE TO DOMINATE CAIRO PRESS. JAN 6 HEADLINES NOTE SADAT WILL CHAIR NDP POLITBUREAU MEETING TODAY TO DECIDE ON ACTIONS TO CONFRONT SOVIET INVASION. IN NBC INTERVIEW JAN 4, SADAT REPORTEDLY SAID EGYPT WILL NOT BE CONTENT WITH STATEMENTS OF CONDEMNATION, BUT WILL TAKE "PRACTICAL POSITIONS." HE CLARIFIED HIS OFFER OF MILITARY FACILITIES TO U.S., SAYING FACILITIES, BUT NOT BASES, WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST U.S. IN RESPONDING TO REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM ANY GULF STATE. PAPERS ALSO HIGHLIGHT U.S. ANNOUNCEMENT OF BANS ON SALE OF WHEAT AND HIGH TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT TO USSR.

2. PRESS REPORTS IN FULL STATEMENT OF EGYPTIAN PERMREP ABDEL MEGUID TO UNSC. STATEMENT EMPHASIZED THAT EGYPT CONSIDERS PRESENT SITUATION AS THREAT TO WORLD PEACE. MEGUID DECLARED SOVIET INVASION IS FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND SAID IT CONSTITUTES "AN OPEN DECLARATION OF THE SOVIET POLICY OF HEGEMONY." IN OTHER DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS, MFA UNDERSECRETARIES SALAH HASSAN AND SAMIR AHMAD REPORTEDLY MET WITH LATIN AMERICAN, AFRICAN AND UNCLASSIFIED.

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ASIAN AMBASSADORS IN CAIRO. AHAM REPORTS FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS PREPARED A DETAILED STUDY OF EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN, PROBABLE RESULTS OF THE UNSC DEBATE AND PROSPECTS FOR ACTION IN THE GA IF THE SOVIET EXERCISE THEIR VETO IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

3. PAPERS HIGHLIGHT CONTINUED PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO SOVIET ACTION. NDP SECGEN EBEID IS QUOTED AS SAYING LARGE NUMBERS OF EGYPTIANS HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO FIGHT WITH AFGHAN TRIBESMEN. PRESS NOTES THAT AFGHAN STUDENTS UNION IN EGYPT, SHEIKH OF EGYPTIAN SUFI SOCIETIES AND AFGHAN-EGYPTIAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY HAVE PUBLICLY CONDEMNED THE SOVIET MOVE.

4. EDITORIALS ECHO SADAT'S CALL FOR ACTION, NOT DELCARATIONS. AHAM WRITES THAT IN OFFERING MILITARY FACILITIES TO THE U.S., EGYPT IS SHOULDERING ITS ISLAMIC AND ARAB RESPONSIBILITIES. AKHBAR SAYS CURRENT U.S. AND U.N. EFFORTS ARE NOT ENOUGH, AND URGES ISLAMIC LEADERS TO ADOPT "PRACTICAL POSITIONS" INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR THE U.S. TO SAVE THEM. GUMHURIYYA TAKES A SIMILAR LINE, STRESSING THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE ISLAMIC WORLD TO SETTLE ITS DIFFERENCES BECAUSE OF DANGER IT NOW FACES. OCTOBER MAGAZINE THIS WEEK HAS ON COVER CARTOON OF APE WITH BREZHNEV'S FACE IN PROCESS OF SQUASHING BEARDED MUSLIM WHILE RIPPING MINARETS FROM

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